THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
PHILIP W. BUCHEN — FREDERICK D. NICHOLS
VICTORINE DU PONT HOMSEY — KEVIN ROCHE
ELI S. JACOBS — EDWARD D. STONE, JR.
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

May 22, 1979

AM
10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

I. ADMINISTRATION:

A. Dates of next meetings: June 28, 1979 (Thursday)
July 24, 1979
August 28, 1979

B. Approval of April 24, 1979 minutes

C. Personnel Announcements

D. Commission of Fine Arts Regulations

E. Georgetown Waterfront Report

F. Keith-Albee Demolition Report

10:30

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS:

A. District of Columbia Department of Economic Development

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 79-80, 1049 30th Street, N.W. Resubmission Watergate Development, revised scheme for office-apartment building.

b. O.G. 79-92, 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. office-apartment project, confirmation of working drawings, material selection.

c. Appendix 1.

SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS (continued, May 22, 1979)

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 79- 5th and C Streets N.W. New office building, Georgetown University.

b. Appendix 2.

B. District of Columbia Department of General Services

1. Municipal Office Building, Judiciary Square.

C. District of Columbia Department of Transportation

1. Chain Bridge, resurfacing, new railings and lights.

D. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. Interim Park design, Kahn's Site, 7th and Market Streets, N.W.

2. Mural, 310 and 312 7th Street, N.W. Northeast of Kahn's Site.

E. Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology

1. Office Seal design.

F. U.S. Capitol Historical Society

1. Medal Series, John Paul Jones Medal.

APPENDIX 1

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

May 22, 1979

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 79-78	2206 Grace Street, N.W.	Conversion of 2nd floor to two dwelling units, addition of loft and deck above 2nd floor.

ACTION: Issue permit

O.G. 79-84	2828 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. Georgetown Plaza Association	All letters are polished bronze. 1. (1) Set 10" inverted channel lett. "Four Seasons Hotel" logo 5' neon backltd. 2. 4&6 4"x 1/4" cut out bronze plate "Georgetown Plaza" 3. 3"x 1/4" cut out bronze plate "Georgetown plaza 2828 Pennsylvania Ave." 5. 6"x 1/2" cut out bronze plate "2828".

ACTION: Issue permit

O.G. 79-88	1400 35th Street N.W. Joseph Smith	Replacement of canvas awning over front entrance with permanent canopy, copper covered, typical in Georgetown.

APPENDIX I

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

May 22, 1979

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 79-88	1400 35th Street, N.W. Joseph Smith	Replacement of canvas awning over front entrance with a permanent canopy, copper covered, typical in Georgetown.

ACTION: Issue permit

O.G. 79-89,	1236 31st Street, N.W. RSSN Ltd. Partnership	Revision to earlier Commission action. Revised dimension of rear addition due to location of 20' tree. Also transmitting permit and work drawings for review and confirmation as per attached sets.

ACTION: Subject to approval by District Government of zoning and permit matters, the Commission has no objection to an enlarged six foot wide areaway at the front of this building, nor the enlarging of the basement windows as shown. Recommend restoration of existing sash on upper floors of building and use of matching sash for first floor with vertically rather than horizontally proportioned lights. Request detailed drawing showing new metal stair to first floor entrance.

APPENDIX 1

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

May 22, 1979

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 79-90	1232 31st Street, N.W. RSSN Ltd. partnership	Exterior repair, replace windows and doors replace roof and close in porch.

ACTION: Subject to approval by the District Government of all permit and zoning matters, the Commission has no objection to proposed painted brick stair tower as shown, nor substituting new sash to match existing type of sash for the casement type previously approved for east elevation facing 31st Street. Also approve garden wall facing 31st Street to be reconstructed matching old iron work finish and other details from wall that was demolished at that location.

O.G. 79-91	1324 34th Street N.W. Rusty Powell	Install sliding glass door.

ACTION: Issue permit. Use brick infill on sides of new windows.

O.G. 79-94	1611 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Reed Electric Company	Installation of 2 sets aluminum 8" letters to read: Reed Electric Co.

ACTION: Issue permit.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

May 22, 1979

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 79-40	1920 Quincy Street, N.W. Mr. Dixon Butler	Construct new three story family dwelling.

ACTION: Issue permit.

S.L. 79-42	2601-11 Kingle Road, N.W. Kingle Ridge Joint Venture	Change in design from a railroad tie retaining wall to a reinforced concrete block retaining wall with a rough beige stucco finish. Height: 2'-5" Length: 245'

ACTION: Issue permit for beige stucco wall. (It is noted that the wall has already been constructed)

S.L. 79-45	84 Kalorama Circle	Erect 6'-0" high iron picket fence between S/E corner of 84 Kalorama and front corner of brick garden wall.

ACTION: Issue permit.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

22 May 1979

The meeting convened at 10:20 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman Hon. Philip W. Buchen Hon. Victorine DuPont Homsey Hon. Eli S. Jacobs Hon. Kevin E. Roche Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
Staff Present:	Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Bemis Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson Mrs. Sue Kohler Miss Karen O'Meara
Georgetown Board Member Present:	Dr. Theodore A. Sande
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	Mr. Robert Cosby
House District Committee Staff Present:	Mr. Nelson Rimensnyder

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of Next meetings, approved as: 28 June 1979 (Thursday)
24 July 1979
28 August 1979

B. Minutes of 24 April meeting, approved.

C. Personnel Announcement. The Secretary introduced new staff member Karen O'Meara, clerk-typist.

D. Commission of Fine Arts Regulations. The Secretary reported that only minor changes needed to be made before sending the regulations to the Federal Register for publication. Dates for submissions were fixed at five days before a Commission meeting; for Georgetown cases, three days before a Board meeting. It was also decided that the words "working papers" and "drafts" would be omitted from the listing of records open to public inspection, the word "completed" inserted before "reports," and a phrase inserted noting that any copies desired would be made at the expense of the applicant.

E. Georgetown Waterfront Report. The Secretary reported that he had presented the staff's park scheme at the Georgetown Citizens' Association meeting on 21 May and said that it had been very favorably received. As a consequence, the Association did not endorse the Georgetown Task Force's scheme for development of the area and voted instead to appoint a committee to investigate the park proposal.

F. Keith-Albee Demolition Report. The Secretary told the members that there had been some new developments in the suit brought by the Committee to Save Rhodes Tavern and the National Processional Route. (The Commission of Fine Arts was named in the suit for alleged failure to report its decision on the demolition to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, as may be required by Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. The Committee subsequently requested a reversal of the U.S. District Court's earlier decision to dismiss the case for want of Federal jurisdiction. The reversal was requested on the grounds that the Commission's action did indeed constitute a Federal undertaking, and the District Government had issued a demolition permit before the Historic Preservation Act had been complied with.) The Secretary said the Justice Department had filed a brief with the U.S. District Court of Appeals arguing that because the Shipstead-Luce Act requires only that the Commission give advice to the District Government, its actions are not Federal undertakings. He said that on 18 May the Court had denied the motion for reversal. He then reviewed for the members the position of the developer, Oliver T. Carr: He is willing to retain the facade of the Metropolitan Bank building, but not the Keith-Albee. He cannot keep Rhodes Tavern on the site, but will provide a certain amount of money to move it.

The Secretary then noted that Mr. Robert Gair from the Committee to Preserve Rhodes Tavern Was present to speak briefly to the members. Mr. Gair distributed information on the tavern and said that Mr. Paul Buchanan from Historic Williamsburg had recommended strongly that the

building be preserved and its exterior restored. He related that the developer had recently proposed either demolition of the tavern or its removal to another site. When asked about his Committee's position in regard to moving the building, Mr. Gair replied that this was out of the question because of the historical importance of the original site.

The Secretary questioned Mr. Gair about the lawsuit his committee is bringing against the Commission; Mr. Gair said his committee's complaint is limited to the Commission's alleged failure to report its findings to the Advisory Council, as they believe is required under the Historic Preservation Act. In conclusion, Mr. Gair said his committee has been working with both the D.C. Government and the Congress in an attempt to get funds to save the tavern. At this point they hope to get a Government grant to restore the exterior, and then interest a citizen's group in taking over the interior work.

II. SUBMISSIONS

A. District of Columbia Department of Economic Development

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 79-90, 1049 30th Street, N.W. Resubmission, Watergate Development, revised scheme for office-apartment building. The Assistant Secretary reviewed this case, which is actually one project with two separate developers for each of the major buildings. This submission was for the office-apartment building, a redesign in response to the Commission's recommendations following initial review at the previous meeting. The criticism at that time was directed primarily at the excessive bulk, when considered in relation to the adjacent rows of small townhouses, and to the vertical emphasis of the design.

The architect, Henry Holle of the firm of Holle and Graff, was introduced. He told the members that after the last meeting he had submitted a new design to the Georgetown Board which made use of setbacks to break up the facades, very much like the design by another architect which the Commission had approved in 1978. This new design had also been criticized, because of the large areas of unrelieved vertical window-patterns and the strong vertical element at the courtyard entrance. For this Commission meeting he had prepared still another version which showed this vertical element broken up by a horizontal band. Dr. Theodore Sande reported the Georgetown Board's feeling that the design was proceeding in the right direction, and added that although the Board had not seen the new drawing, he felt personally that it was an improvement. He commented also on the need for a model before any judgment could be made on the design as a whole.

Mr. Holle said that he had a model in his car and would bring it in. In the meantime, several Georgetown citizens commented on the project. Mr. Donald Shannon, and ANC representative, said that the neighbors were still concerned about the effect this building would have on the small houses near it. He noted that other commercial projects in Georgetown have been reduced in height without causing economic hardship to their owners; he also speculated that people who will buy the apartments will want a residential character typical of Georgetown, not design reminiscent of a "K Street" office building.

Mr. Ray Kukulski, a member of the citizens' group and owner of one of the townhouses in the block, spoke for several other residents present when he said the drawings were misleading in that they did not show the close proximity of the small houses to the apartment building. Samuel Herman, another resident, urged that for safety reasons the Commission should require at least an alley width of space between the townhouses and the new building with access to 29th Street.

Mr. Holle returned with his model and the members inspected it. The Chairman, who had been concerned about the view from the canal, thought the project would be sufficiently screened from that direction by an existing three story industrial type building along the canal bank. He was critical, however, of the undue emphasis given to the courtyard entrance by its strong verticality, previously discussed, and concerned about the sightlines along 29th Street, particularly the east elevation at the north corner. He thought both corners on this street should be chamfered or softened in some way, and that perhaps one or two floors should be set well back on that elevation. More study was recommended and the project was not approved.

b. O.G. 79-92, 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.; office-apartment project, confirmation of working drawings, material selection. The Secretary introduced Vlastimil Koubek, architect, who showed a brick sample for this project. It was a hard-burned brick, generally dark and brownish in color, with a considerable color range from brick to brick. Both the Chairman and Mr. Roche were worried about the effect of such a dark color on the two large buildings in this project. Mr. Koubek said the bricks for the office building had already been ordered; he had assumed that the approval he had obtained from the Georgetown Board was all that was needed. Dr. Sande commented that the Board had seen the sample outdoors and that it did not appear too dark, particularly in the sunlight. He thought the choice of mortar color was the crucial element. The Chairman told Mr. Koubek that even though he had gone ahead and ordered the brick, the Commission would require the erection of a large sample at the site before giving final approval. Mr. Koubek was also asked to bring samples of other brick in light shades in the red range for use on the apartment building. The working drawings were approved.

c. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 79-51, 5th and C Streets, N.W. New office building, Georgetwon University. The Assistant Secretary informed the members that this new office building would be erected in the Judiciary Square area on the site of the old Columbian Law Building, demolished in 1977. He noted that the master plan for the area has been revised, raising the height limit for buildings facing 6th Street to 130 feet; those facing the Square are limited to 90 feet.

Architect Vlastimil Koubek discussed his design, pointing out that the building will stand on a two story base and will be set back 40 feet from the lot line on 5th Street, as required by the master plan. This will allow for a plaza, which will be paved in brick, as will the lobby which runs through the building. On 5th Street the structure will rise 90 feet to the cornice line and then, after a setback, to 120 feet, the full height of the 6th Street elevation. A notch will run around the entire building at the 90 foot setback height. The material will be precast concrete, tan or limestone in color. There were no objections and the preliminary design was approved.

b. Appendix 2, approved.

B. District of Columbia Department of General Services

1. Municipal Office Building, Judiciary Square. Withdrawn from the agenda.

C. District of Columbia Department of Transportation

1. Chain Bridge, resurfacing and new railings and lights. The Assistant Secretary reviewed this proposal to repair and upgrade the bridge and to make it safer. He noted that Chain Bridge is the oldest crossing over the Potomac, and that the present bridge, opened in 1938, is the eighth on the site. Old piers from the first mid-ninetennth century structure are still in use. The site, near Great Falls, is one which has long received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts.

It is proposed to replace the present deck with a new one, widen it somewhat, replace the present cantilever brackets with new ones to accommodate the increased width, and provide a ramp to allow bicycle access to the tow path of the C. & O. Canal. The pedestrian sidewalk would be eliminated on the south side, and the present Washington street lights replaced by highway type fixtures. Concrete walls would replace the present iron railings along the bridge.

The members expressed their concern over the character of these proposed changes, particularly the highway type lighting and the concrete wall, which would block the motorist's view of the river in this scenic spot. (There was some question also about the asymmetrical character of the bridge with one sidewalk removed.)

The Chairman asked the Department of Transporation representative, Mr. Wallace Cohen, what the height of the wall would be, and Mr. Cohen replied that 2'-8" is the minimum required. He said that railings with horizontal members, such as the one now existing, are considered unsafe because children can climb on them and possibly fall off the bridge. Mr. Roche was especially concerned about the character of the lighting and suggested that railing lights are available which would be more suitable than highway fixtures. It was also thought that a model would be necessary for proper study of the project. It was not approved.

EXHIBIT A

D. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. Interim Park Design, Kann's Site, 7th and Market Space, N.W. The Assistant Secretary introduced Mr. Lee Allen from PADC who showed drawings of a simple temporary park proposed for the site of Kann's Department Store, which burned recently and is being demolished. The park would consist of an expanse of grass with a row of trees at the northern boundary and a curved row of smaller, flowering trees at the center of the Market Space frontage. There would also be a paved area in this vicinity to accommodate performances, exhibitions, etc. There was no objection to this proposal and it was approved.

EXHIBIT B

2. Mural, 310 and 312 7th Street, N.W. Northeast of Kann's site. Mr. Allen noted that murals are also being proposed for two other sites in addition to Kann's: the west walls of the small buildings next to the Evening Star building, and on a building adjacent to the Canadian Chancery site on John Marshall Place, N.W. The paintings at the Evening Star site will be started first, as demolition of Kann's has taken longer than expected. The murals will all be temporary, three to four years at the most.

Mr. Allen introduced Ms. Mame Cohalon who designed the murals. She in turn introduced four of the students who will work with her and do the actual painting. She then showed slides of her work for the Smithsonian at the National Zoo and for professional office clients in Washington and New York. She has also directed a mural project for the exterior walls of the Southwest Community House where she recruited the young people who will work with her on the Pennsylvania Avenue projects.

Ms. Cohalon then turned to the models she had brought showing her designs for murals at the Kann's and Evening Star sites. She showed several alternate designs for each site. The members thought the more abstract ones were the most successful and cautioned particularly that at the Kann's site any representation of housing (which had been suggested as a theme by PADC) should be very schematic, since a too literal rendition could be too suggestive of an actual design for the housing planned for that site. No approval of a specific design was required at this meeting.

EXHIBIT C

E. Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology.

1. Office Seal Design. The Secretary explained that the design for this seal was based on others issued for the offices of the President. The Chairman thought it should be simplified by removing the points of the compass depicted in the center area and by removing the scroll below. He suggested that the staff work with the Institute of Heraldry towards this end.

F. U.S. Capitol Historical Society

1. Medal Series, John Paul Jones Medal. The Secretary said that this is not truly a national medal as it will be struck privately, but it is one of a series that has been authorized by Congress and so was brought to the Commission for review. The members had no objection to the concept of a portrait of John Paul Jones on the obverse and a ship on the reverse, but were concerned about involving the Commission with a commercial venture. It was suggested that this concern be mentioned in a letter to the sponsoring society.

EXHIBIT D

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
PHILIP W. BUCHEN — FREDERICK D. NICHOLS
VICTORINE DU PONT HOMSEY — KEVIN ROCHE
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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

4 June 1979

Dear Mr. Schneider:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a number of proposed alterations to Chain Bridge at its meeting on May 22, 1979. We appreciate the care that the Department of Transportation is giving to this project as Chain Bridge is one of the most historic Potomac River crossings and is located in one of the most scenic areas of our National parks.

As we reported to Wally Cohen and Lynn Robinson during our meeting, we feel that the deck widening and removal of one of the walks for safety may be acceptable if the basic character of the other bridge features can be retained. Of particular importance is the retention of the historic Washington globe lighting fixtures and the visibility of the river gorge that is possible with the present railing.

If lighting levels are to be raised, the additional illumination could probably be achieved by using a brighter luminaire in the existing fixture. It should be noted, however, that the lighting on the approaches to the bridge on both sides of the Potomac is at a low level, a fact which would appear to argue against creating any strong contrast in lighting on the bridge roadway itself.

Retaining the view from the bridge is of paramount importance. We recognize that current safety standards are applicable to any new construction of the roadway, but we feel that with imagination and effort, the intent of the standards can be met while still

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preserving some of the valuable aesthetic features of the railing which permits a dramatic view of the river. The new auto guards on the Buffalo Bridge at "Q" Street and Rock Creek Park are good examples of what can be achieved. Perhaps a low guard rail directly next to the roadway could also incorporate supplementary lighting within the rail itself and thus meet all the new safety requirements without greatly altering the existing bridge.

In the process of studying various alternatives that might be developed, we would like to request that a simple model of a typical section of roadway be prepared for review by the Commission. The Commission will be meeting in June on the 28th and in July on the 24th. We will be happy to consider further development at those or any subsequent meetings.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Douglas N. Schneider, Jr.
Director
Department of Transportation
Government of the District of Columbia
415 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

EXHIBIT B

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
PHILIP W. BUCHEIT
VICTORIA DA POZO RODGERS
ELI S. JACOBS
FREDERICK D. NICHOLS
DEVEREUX ROBERTS
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

4 June 1979

Dear Andy:

The Commission of Fine Arts approved the plan to sod and landscape the site soon to be cleared of what is left of the Kann's Department Store at 7th Street and Market Place, N.W., during our May 22, 1979 meeting. As we told Lee Allen, the Commission hopes this area can be kept free of parked cars and well-maintained for the several years before new construction can begin. Though we understand that there have been questions raised over the proposed alignment of trees on the future building line, we feel that the actual management and maintenance of this site will be more important in the long run. The actual location of the trees is a relatively unimportant matter.

We look forward with the PADC to insure timely development on this site of the permanent housing that is such an important element in the approved development plans for the Avenue.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

W. Anderson Barnes
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Avenue
Development Corporation
Suite 1148
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

EXHIBIT C

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
PHILIP W. BUCHEN — FREDERICK D. NICHOLS
[illegible] — [illegible]
[illegible] — EDWARD D. STONE, JR.
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

June 4, 1979

Dear Andy:

The Commission was happy to discuss proposals for murals within the PADC area during its May 22, meeting. As a temporary, enlivening measure and a boost to local arts we feel that we can concur with your efforts. The specific proposals for painting the side of the Lunch Connection building seems reasonable in its abstract, geometric approach. The staff and I shall be happy to follow through as further details develop. The "housing" theme for the Lansburg's building, however, seemed a bit literal to the Commission with actual depiction of buildings and persons. We suggest a more abstract approach which is more in line with the artist's current thinking on that mural. Finally, if this program is to include a number of murals on other buildings as well, the Commission strongly recommends that other artists be asked to participate, thus avoiding any problems that might result by appearing to favor a single individual.

We look forward to seeing further developments as they are ready.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

W. Anderson Barnes
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Avenue
Development Corporation
Suite 1148
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

EXHIBIT D

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

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4 June 1979

Dear Fred:

The Commission, at its meeting on May 22, reviewed the sketches showing a design for the second medal to be issued by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society.

We recommend that only one subject be chosen for the medal; in this case, John Paul Jones. The Bon Homme Richard will present a great opportunity for an exciting reverse side.

As to further review, we will be glad to look at the sculptor's designs at the appropriate time.

Since we are only offering our views in an advisory capacity, however, we would appreciate the ommission of any reference to the Commission in promotional material that might be used in connection with the medal's sale.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Fred Schwengel
President
U.S. Capitol Historical Society
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20515